

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Status

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1 and 7-10 are currently amended. Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of original claim 6. Claims 7-10 are amended for grammatical and antecedent basis purposes. No new matter has been added.

§102(b)/ §102(e)/ §103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sproull (U.S. 4,542,106). Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Gallo (U.S. 6,136,735). Claims 1-5, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Wallenberger (2003/0224922; U.S. 6,818,575). Claims 1-5, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Li (U.S. 7,449,419).

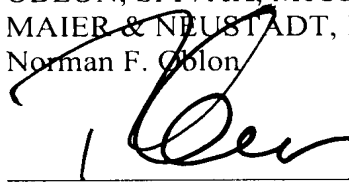
Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Office Action, pg. 5, para. 1). Independent Claim 1 and Independent Claim 9 have been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 6. Therefore, Claim 1 and Claim 9 are now allowable in accordance with the Office’s assertion above. Likewise, because claims 2-5 and 7-8 are dependent from claim 1, and claim 10 is dependent from claim 9, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(b)/ § 102(e)/ § 103(a) rejections.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and passage of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.
Norman F. Obolon



Richard L. Treanor
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 36,379

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 07/09)